



Department of Parks,
Recreation & Cultural Affairs

The Heart & Soul of the City

Visions

VOLUME 3 ISSUE TWO

2005 DPRCA Spring/Summer Issue

EDITORIAL STAFF Jerri Sumlin AND Nwaka Mullins

Spring Greetings

Spring has definitely arrived in the City of Atlanta! As our city parks blossom with vibrant colors and beautifully manicured lawns, residents of all ages are taking advantage of the warm weather by participating in every recreational activity imaginable. This is the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs' busiest time of year! The change of seasons welcome adrenaline inspired programming such as baseball, softball and track & field; while programs such as Camp Best Friends and Summer Murals inspire our Atlanta youth to be the best they can possible be. The highly anticipated Atlanta Jazz Festival will once again offer a magical line up of performances throughout the month of May at various Atlanta area venues, dazzling thousands upon thousands of jazz enthusiasts. Don't miss the FREE concert series during Memorial Day

Weekend at Piedmont Park. I also invite you to the visit one of our large outdoor pools or golf courses to become truly acquainted with the entire assortment of wonderful offerings available through this department. Residents and visitors alike will immediately notice our continued efforts of providing superior customer service and the unremitting commitment of ensuring each person who visits will have an unforgettable encounter. We will continue to strive in providing the best parks, recreational facilities and cultural experiences for all. WE encourage you all to enjoy the warm months ahead with the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs!



Dianne Harnell Cohen Commissioner

City of Atlanta Kicks off 2005 Parks Season:

Launches Park of the Month Program

The City of Atlanta Parks Bureau recently kicked off the 2005 parks season with a celebration at the Atlanta Waterworks Lodge. Surrounded by employees, volunteers and community partners, Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Commissioner Dianne Harnell Cohen announced a new Park of the Month Program. Crew members responsible for park maintenance will nominate parks each month. The PARC 911 Maintenance and Safety Committee will make final selections on a Park of the Month.

Parks will be featured to spotlight productive efforts of the Bureau of Parks' staff, volunteers and community partners.

"Our aim is to send a message that we are truly committed to improving, maintaining and preserving parks and greenspace," said Commissioner Harnell Cohen. "We are

excited to introduce this new program which will highlight the accomplishments of our dedicated workers to all those who live, work and play in Atlanta."

PARC 911 is a committee initiated by Park Pride, a nonprofit organization dedicated to involving the community in enhancing the quality of life through the protection and improvement of parks and greenspace.

The announcement of the first **Park of the Month** will be made May 13, 2005.

City of Atlanta parks are open year round. For a complete listing of parks or additional information on the Bureau of Parks, visit www.atlantaga.gov or call 404.817.6744.

Special thanks to:

Park Pride, Chastain Park Conservancy, Piedmont Park Conservancy, Freedom Park Conservancy, Woodruff Park Conservancy and Olmstead Linear Park Conservancy for hosting the 2005 Parks Season Kickoff. The DPRCA thanks these organizations for showing appreciation and support to our parks staff for their ongoing commitment towards caring for the city's 3400 plus acres of parks and greenspace.

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Atlanta's Promise: Department Takes Next Step For Area High School Seniors

This is the time of year when many of the city's high school seniors, with support of family, teachers and counselors, decide which important life path to take after graduation. For additional support, Atlanta area seniors can now count on the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs. As part of **Mayor Franklin's Next Step . . . The Atlanta Promise** program, the department has formed a committee of mentors to assist students planning for college or preparing to enter the work force. Mentors are currently assisting students with completing applications for financial aid scholarships, internships and job searches. Mayor Franklin initiated the program to engage all Atlanta Public School seniors in planning for life after graduation. She has already hosted one-on-one conversations with various students regarding their plans. With the assistance of participating City of Atlanta departments and partners such as the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency, students' educational and career needs are being assessed. *"This department is committed to guiding our Atlanta youth as they prepare for their future lives,"* comments Commissioner Harnell Cohen. *"Whatever path they choose, we will assist in every step to ensure they meet their life goals."* For more information on **Next Step . . . The Atlanta Promise**, call 404.658.WORK (9675).

CONGRATULATIONS . . . to the

BEN HILL LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

for being invited to participate in the inaugural Little League Baseball Urban Initiative Program Jamboree, Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-30, 2005 at the Little League Baseball International Headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Jamboree will consist of a non-competitive weekend of games, instruction and other events.

24th Annual Camp Best Friends Brings

FUN, FITNESS & HEALTH Together For The Summer



Registration has begun for the 24th Annual Camp Best Friends. Camp begins May 31 and will run through July 22. Children and teens ages 6-16 can participate in traditional and non-traditional summer camp activities. This premier camp provides educational trips, computer instruction, swimming, horseback riding and golfing. Camp Best Friends also offers specialty camps that cater to children interested in the performing arts, cheerleading, tennis and basketball. This year's theme, **FUN, FITNESS & HEALTH**, combines all the necessary ingredients for a great summer. *"This program symbolizes our on-going commitment to the well-being of Atlanta's youth,"* states Bureau of Recreation Director Truman Tolefree. *"We assure that each child will be afforded the best camp experience that will be cherished for many years to come."* Over forty City of Atlanta recreational centers will host Camp Best Friends, an enriching summer program provided by the Bureau of Recreation. **For more information, including camp locations call 404.853.7386(7FUN) or visit www.atlantaga.gov.**

Register Now!

samuel boatwright:



10-year-old Swim Sensation Dives Past the Competition

While most 10-year old children are busy playing with friends or glued to a Play Station 2 or Super Nintendo, swimming sensation Samuel Boatwright is at the pool steadily working to improve his record-breaking time of 23 minutes in the free style mile. Samuel is a member of the esteemed City of Atlanta Dolphins (CAD) Swim League and has been competing since the young age of 5. He is one of the youngest long distance competitors in the country, and is poised for a 1st place national ranking. He has won numerous "High Point Honors" in Washington D.C., while capturing both the 10-and under and 8-and under divisions of the prestigious Black History Invitational. He also received 3 gold medals in the 2003 AAU Junior Olympics. Samuel attributes his parents for their dedication to promoting the benefits of being both a great student and athlete. Samuel, an honor roll student, has been on the Principal List and also named Student of the Month twice.

"I like swimming long distances because it really gives me a chance to display difficult stroke techniques," states Samuel. He looks forward to a long career in swimming and one day competing in the Olympics. The DPRCA congratulates Samuel not only for his superb athleticism, but on his outstanding academic achievements. For more information on the CAD swim league contact Coach Tommy Jackson at 404.505.3181.



Atlanta Youth to Learn the Importance of Art through the Summer Murals Program

One hundred Atlanta area youth will have the opportunity to express their artistic flair during the Summer Murals Program from May 31 to July 21, 2005 at various sites. The 8-week program offered by the Bureau of Cultural Affairs, in conjunction with the Bureau of Recreation's Camp Best Friends program, will pair participants with professional artists to enrich neighborhoods throughout Atlanta with art. Youth from Brownwood Recreation Center, Coan Park Therapeutics Camp, the Piedmont Park Summer Day Camp, East Atlanta Kids Club and ARTSCool participants from the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency will work with local artists such as Kojo Griffin, Charles Nelson, Jr., Ernesto Cuevas and Jimoh Buraimoh to create colorful murals. "This is a wonderful program for exposing youth to hands-on art expression and appreciation," states Camille Russell Love, Bureau of Cultural Affairs Director. "Each year we look forward to showcasing the beautiful collaborations of our talented students and teachers." At the conclusion of the program, students will be awarded prizes for their participation during a reception at City Gallery East. Established in 1999, the Summer Murals program aims to promote awareness and nurture the artistic development of many young students who have the desire to learn about the importance of art and its value to the community. The program is funded through the City of Atlanta's Percent for Art initiative. For more information on the Summer Murals Program, call 404.817.6815 or visit www.bcaatlanta.com.

City of Atlanta

POOL OPENINGS

May 30th

Candler Pool: 404.373.4349
Chastain Pool: 404.252.9669
Garden Hills Pool: 404.812.9127
Grant Pool: 404.622.3041
Piedmont Pool: 404.892.0117
Pittman Pool: 404.522.0021
Powell Pool: 404.753.7156
Southbend Pool: 404.622.3048

June 6th

Adams Pool: 404.753.6091
A. Langford Pool: 404.622.3043
Anderson Pool: 404.799.0317
John A. White Pool: 404.755.5546
Maddox Pool: 404.892.0119
Oakland Pool: 404.753.7245
Phoenix Pool: 404.522.0030
Thomasville Pool: 404.622.3045
Tucson Pool: 404.349.4342

For additional information including hours of operation and fees call the aquatics hotline at 404.853.7654 or office at 404.817.6778



Bureau of Parks Employee “**CAL**” **YOUNG** Retires After Three Decades

> On Thursday April 14, 2005 **longtime Bureau of Parks Forestry Supervisor William “Cal” Young**, retired after working 33 years with the Department. During an emotional retirement luncheon held at Grant Park, co-workers raved about his outstanding work ethic and dedication to completing assignments. *“I will miss working with the crew the most, we were like family,”* states Cal. Cal looks forward to spending more quality time with his wife and grandchildren. The Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs would like to thank Cal for his extraordinary years of service. <



Chastain Arts Program Manager Erin Bailey Recognized During Women’s History Month

Congratulations to Erin Bailey, of the Bureau of Cultural Affairs, who was recently honored for her 25-year career with the Department and for her immeasurable contributions while working in the capacity of Program Manager at the Gilbert House and most recently the Chastain Arts Center. Ms. Bailey was presented with a distinguished desktop crystal plaque at The Second Annual City of Atlanta Women in Government Luncheon held on March 18 during Women's History Month. “I was totally shocked to be nominated and absolutely thrilled to receive this award,” states Ms. Bailey. She was one of only 41 women in city government to be nominated for this prestigious accolade. Other nominees from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs included Ann Marie Moraitakis, Director, Atlanta Civic Center; Pauline Smith, Director, Atlanta Cyclorama; JoAnn Jackson, Parks Supervisor, Bureau of Parks; and Latosha Haney, Parks Supervisor, Bureau of Parks. <

DPRCA Welcomes:

Paul Taylor

Assistant Director, Park Design

Karyl Clayton

Field Engineer Operations Chief, Park Design

Dorinda McCombs

Administrative Analyst, Management Services Office

Cornell Menafee

Information Technology Specialist,
Management Services Office

Lionel White

Facilities Maintenance Administrator, Park Design

Phyllis Miller

Commissioner Harrell Cohen's new Executive Assistant

All seasonal employees to the department for another exciting spring and summer season!



NORRIS COOPER

...the Appreciated Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Norris Cooper for receiving the department's first Appreciated Employee of the Month Award! The announcement was made during the Parks Kick Off Celebration on Thursday, March 24, 2005. A pleasantly shocked and speechless Mr. Norris received a colorful balloon bouquet adorned with his favorite chocolates for his hard work and commitment to his job.

Mr. Cooper is a 29-year veteran with the Bureau of Parks. As Parks Worker, Sr., he is responsible for maintaining and preserving the wonderfully lush green carpet-like grass at parks such as Piedmont Park and others. The Appreciated Employee of the Month Award is a new program initiated by the Employee Task Force to recognize special employees for consistently striving for excellence. Employees are surprised with a token such as a balloon bouquet or other goodies for their efforts.



City of Atlanta Parks Have New Signs!

The DPRCA has begun to implement its first stages of improving City parks by replacing the wood name signage with new permanent plastic signage. The signs will allow for increased visibility for patrons and visitors to the parks. Twenty-one signs were installed at park entrances this past April. Parks such as Adamsville, Atlanta Memorial, Brownwood, Candler, Central, Coan will receive the first installation of the signs.

Bureau of Cultural Affairs Unveils

Community Cultural Plan Survey

The City of Atlanta Bureau of Cultural Affairs (BCA) recently unveiled its development of the 2005 Community Cultural Plan. The plan will represent an agenda for the

future development of arts, cultural programs and resources in the City, with a focus on the government's role in cultural development. An electronic survey has been designed to collect information from stakeholders (such as artists, cultural organizations, civic leaders and the general public), and the results will

help to develop a plan of action to address needs and interests of the various groups. If you would like to participate in this worthwhile research, please visit www.bcaatlanta.com to complete an on-line survey. The Community Cultural Plan will be completed and released during fall 2005.

For more information call 404.817.6815.



Gwen Clark Named Employee of the Quarter



> Congratulations to Gwen Clark, Adamsville Recreation Center Facility Manager, for being selected as the Employee of the Quarter! Ms. Clark has been employed with the department for nearly 26 years! She began her extensive career with the department at Ben Hill Recreation Center. She has since managed recreation facilities located at Adams, West Manor, Techwood, Carver, Grove and English parks. Managing Adamsville, for only less than a year, she is credited for transforming the facility to further serve the needs of the community by adding additional programming and staff. Ms. Clark was named Employee of the Quarter due to her willingness and dedication in helping with relief efforts during the ice storm that occurred in late January 2005. In addition to being recognized during a department wide meeting, Ms. Clark received a \$50.00 gift certificate and name placement on the department's official Employee of the Quarter Plaque. The Employee of the Quarter program recognizes invaluable contributions of fellow employees, while honoring their exceptional dedication to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. To be eligible, employees must be nominated by a colleague. All nominations are then reviewed by The Employee Task Force. Nomination forms are available in the Commissioner's Office or by contacting a task force representative. Call 404.817.6924 for additional information.

Our Mission:

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs is to provide all residents and visitors with the highest quality parks, facilities, recreational programs and cultural experiences. For more

information about the services and programs of the City of Atlanta, watch City Channel 26 or visit us online at www.atlantaga.gov.

City Of Atlanta

Honorable Shirley Franklin, Mayor

Atlanta City Council

Honorable Lisa Borders, President

Honorable Carla Smith, District 1

Honorable Debi Starnes, District 2

Honorable Ivory Lee Young, Jr., District 3

Honorable Clea Winslow, District 4

Honorable Natalyn Mosby Archibong
District 5

Honorable Anne Fauver, District 6

Honorable Howard Shook, District 7

Honorable Clair Muller, District 8

Honorable Felicia A. Moore, District 9

Honorable C. T. Martin, District 10

Honorable Jim Maddox, District 11

Honorable Joyce Sheperd, District 12

Honorable Ceasar C. Mitchell, Post 1

Honorable Mary Norwood, Post 2

Honorable H. Lamar Willis, Post 3

Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Dianne Harnell Cohen, Commissioner

Jay Lowery, Director
Bureau of Parks

Truman Tolefree, Director
Bureau of Recreation

Camille Russell Love, Director
Bureau of Cultural Affairs

Sushma K. Dersch, Manager
Park Design Office

Ann Marie Moraitakis, Director
Boisfeuillet Jones Atlanta Civic Center

Darlene Jackson, Business Manager
Management Services Office



For jazz enthusiasts and music connoisseurs, Memorial Day Weekend in the city is completely synonymous with the Atlanta Jazz Festival. There is no doubt that thousands will convene at Piedmont Park for the southeast's largest and FREE concert series on May 28 – 30. Leading up to the Memorial Day Weekend festivities, residents and visitors can experience a month long journey of exhilarating jazz music. The “31 Days of Jazz” series will engulf the City of Atlanta, with events including a **Nightlife Series** at local bistros and nightclubs, **Dinner & Jazz Series** at local eateries, **Eclectic Jazz** at varied locations and the much celebrated **Evenings at Chastain Park** featuring national recording artists Kenny G and Alicia Keys for a night under the stars. This year's series will combine a wonderful mixture of straight-ahead mainstream and Latin jazz with artists such as Rene Marie, Nestor Torres, and local talent Sonny Emory and the State of the Art band. **“After twenty-eight years, the Atlanta Jazz Festival continues to evolve, exposing the phenomenon of jazz to the city's multicultural community,”** states Bureau of Cultural Affairs Director Camille Russell Love. **“We look forward to entertaining Atlanta with some of the world's best jazz artists for many years to come.”**

For more information on the Atlanta Jazz Festival, including a complete list of events, venues and schedules visit www.atlantafestivals.com or call 404.817.6851.

ATLANTA JAZZ FESTIVAL

FREE CONCERT SERIES

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

MAY 28-30, 2005

upcoming events

May 1 - 31

Atlanta Jazz Festival:
“31 Days of Jazz” Series
Throughout Metro Atlanta

May 14

Welcome Back
Tennis Exhibition
Washington Park Tennis Center

May 14 - 27

Senior Moments Art Exhibit
*City Gallery East
& Chastain Arts Center*

May 28 - 30

Atlanta Jazz Festival
Piedmont Park

May 31 - July 22

Camp Best Friends
Various Atlanta Recreation Centers

May 31 - July 21

Summer Murals
Various Atlanta Recreation Centers

June 6 - July 29

ARTSCool & PRE'SCool Program
Various Atlanta Recreation Centers

June 13 - August 5

Art a la Carte' Camp
Chastain Arts Center

June 18 - 19

Annual Chris Silva Swim Invitational
Adamsville Recreation Center

July 15 - 16

24-Hour Tennis Marathon
Washington Park Tennis Center

July 23 - 24

The Battle of Atlanta &
Cyclorama's Anniversary
Atlanta Cyclorama